

USIA and IAC - ; State Dept; [redacted]

summary 25X1A

15 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Board Views on DR/I Proposal to Put USIA on IAC

1. The Board agrees with the DR/I that public opinion is an essential factor in national estimates and that USIA should get adequate dissemination of appropriate intelligence materials. We do not agree, however, that either of these objectives require USIA membership on the IAC. At least from the point of view of NIE production, we are dubious over the value of formal USIA representation in the IAC machinery.

2. The Board's reasons are as follows:

a. We do not believe that USIA representation on the IAC or USIA participation in NIE preparation is essential in order to insure that its unique intelligence materials are woven into NIE's. Not only CIA but the other IAC agencies already get all USIA polls, etc., and weave them into their NIE contributions. Moreover, we already can informally consult USIA or even invite USIA to participate as appropriate, and have done so.

b. For [redacted] survey which led to its creation, OIR/USIA's chief function is to integrate and synthesize materials produced by the rest of the community to meet USIA's special needs. We question whether it is staffed or competent to participate as actively in the NIE process as to justify a role in the IAC. It is certainly not in a position to contribute in the same way as OIR.

c. Moreover, we see a risk that an independent role for OIR/USIA in NIE production will further weaken the role of OIR, which is still the major contributor to our NIE's. OIR now integrates USIA output into its contributions and could be urged to do so more

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fully if considered necessary. But we fear that if USIA were admitted to the IAC it would be difficult to limit its participation to specialized problems. There is a real risk that once in the IAC, USIA would feel increasingly free to discuss a broad range of political questions and to develop a specialized estimates staff. Such a staff would almost certainly largely duplicate, rather than complement, the work of OIR.

1. We also question increasing the size of an already unwieldy IAC. At least as far as NEI's are concerned, there are already so many agencies represented that it is sometimes difficult and cumbersome to arrive at a joint view. In fact two of the present IAC members (FBI and ABC) play only a limited role.
2. While it is beyond our purview, we fear that closer identification with the intelligence community might interfere with USIA's primary mission, foreign information. If USIA became known as an intelligence agency, its own ability to secure outlets abroad and foreign views as to its objectivity might both be adversely affected.

3. In sum, the real question is whether giving OIR/USIA membership on the IAC would permit it to contribute more to the intelligence community than it does already. In our view, we and the other IAC agencies are already deriving benefit from OIR/USIA's intelligence output, and would not gain materially by having it represented at the IAC level or participating directly in preparation of NEI's. From the standpoint of improving estimates, other agencies such as Treasury, Federal Reserve Board, or even Commerce and Agriculture could play at least as valuable a role in the IAC as USIA.

4. Therefore, the Board believes that the original negative recommendation of [ ] in his USIA survey remains valid, and that USIA should not become an IAC member at this time.

[ ]  
Acting Assistant Director  
National Estimates

O/NE [ ] seh

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